

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1        1.        An authentication method comprising the steps of:  
2                generating a first security context in response to a first user authentication;  
3                generating a second security context in response to a second user authentication,  
4 wherein said second security context aggregates said first security context and a security  
5 context corresponding to an identity in said second user authentication.

1        2.        The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of saving said first security  
2 context.

1        3.        The method of claim 2 wherein said step of saving said first security context  
2 comprises the step of pushing said first security context on a stack.

1        4.        The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of receiving a user logoff.

1        5.        The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of destroying said second  
2 security context in response to said step of receiving said user logoff.

1        6.        The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of reverting to said first  
2 security context in response to a user logoff.

1        7.        The method of claim 6 wherein said step of reverting to said first security context

2 comprises the step of popping said first security context off of a stack.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining an access  
2 permission in response to said second security context.

1 9. A computer program product embodied in a tangible storage medium, the  
2 program product comprising a program of instructions for performing the method steps  
3 of:

4 generating a first security context in response to a first user authentication;  
5 generating a second security context in response to a second user authentication,  
6 wherein said second security context aggregates said first security context and a security  
7 context corresponding to an identity in said second user authentication.

1 10. The program product of claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing  
2 the step of saving said first security context.

1 11. The program product of claim 10 wherein said step of saving said first security  
2 context comprises the step of pushing said first security context on a stack.

1 12. The program product of claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing  
2 the step of receiving a user logoff.

1 13. The program product of claim 12 further comprising instructions for performing  
2 the step of destroying said second security context in response to said step of receiving  
3 said user logoff.

1 14. The program product of claim 10 further comprising instructions for performing  
2 the step of reverting to said first security context in response to a user logoff.

1 15. The program product of claim 14 wherein said step of reverting to said first  
2 security context comprises the step of popping said first security context off of a stack.

1 16. The program product of claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing  
2 the step of determining an access permission in response to said second security context.

1 17. A data processing system comprising:  
2 circuitry operable for generating a first security context in response to a first user  
3 authentication;  
4 circuitry operable for generating a second security context in response to a second  
5 user authentication, wherein said second security context aggregates said first security  
6 context and a security context corresponding to an identity in said second user  
7 authentication.

1 18. The system of claim 17 further comprising circuitry operable for saving said first  
2 security context.

1 19. The system of claim 18 wherein said circuitry operable for saving said first  
2 security context comprises the step of pushing said first security context on a stack.

1 20. The system of claim 17 further comprising circuitry operable for receiving a user  
2 logoff.

1 21. The system of claim 20 further comprising circuitry operable for destroying said  
2 second security context in response to said step of receiving said user logoff.

1 22. The system of claim 18 further comprising circuitry operable for reverting to said  
2 first security context in response to a user logoff.

1        23.    The system of claim 22 wherein said circuitry operable for reverting to said first  
2        security context comprises circuitry operable for popping said first security context off  
3        of a stack.

1        24.    The system of claim 17 further comprising circuitry operable for determining  
2        an access permission in response to said second security context.